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Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)

Note verbale dated 23 February 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations, in its capacity as President Pro Tempore of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to inform him that, on 26 and 27 January 2016, the fourth CELAC Summit was held in Quito. On that occasion, the Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean adopted a paragraph of the "Political Declaration of Quito — Mitad del Mundo", as well as a special declaration, on the question of the Malvinas Islands.

In paragraph 75 of the "Political Declaration of Quito — Mitad del Mundo", the Heads of State and Government of CELAC agreed:

> "To reiterate their strongest support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the abiding interest in the peaceful and negotiated settlement of that dispute, in accordance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/49".

The Heads of State and Government of CELAC also adopted the "Special declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands" (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations would be grateful if you would have this note verbale and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 46.

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Annex to the note verbale dated 23 February 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the Dominican Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Special declaration on the question of the Malvinas Islands

The Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean, gathered in Quito, Ecuador, on the occasion of the fourth Summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), on 27 January 2016,

1. Reiterate their strongest support for the legitimate rights of the Argentine Republic in the sovereignty dispute over the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, as well as the abiding interest of the countries of the region in the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in order to find, as soon as possible, a peaceful and definitive solution to the dispute, pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 2065 (XX) and other relevant resolutions of that body and of the Organization of American States, as expressed by them in the previous declarations of the Rio Group and the Latin American and Caribbean Summit on Integration and Development, in particular the Declaration of the Latin American and Caribbean Unity Summit, held in Riviera Maya, Mexico, on 23 February 2010, which are part of the historical heritage of CELAC;

2. In this context, the Heads of State and Government of CELAC welcome the new initiative to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to renew his efforts to carry out the mission of good offices entrusted to him by the General Assembly through successive resolutions, with a view to achieving the resumption of negotiations aimed at finding, as soon as possible, a peaceful solution to the above-mentioned dispute, and to inform them of the progress made in the fulfilment of that mission;

3. Furthermore, they reiterate the importance of observing United Nations General Assembly resolution 31/49, which calls upon the two parties to refrain from taking decisions that would imply introducing unilateral modifications in the situation while the Malvinas Islands, South Georgia Islands and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are going through the process recommended by the General Assembly;

4. They highlight the continuous constructive attitude and willingness of the Argentine Government to reach, by means of negotiations, a peaceful and definitive solution to this anachronistic colonial situation on the soil of the Americas.

Quito, 27 January 2016